

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

## District Two

February 2014 Edition

### Inside this issue:

## Welcome!

As we settle into the new year, let us celebrate all the opportunities and great events happening here in Howard County! In this newsletter, you will find local events and ways to get involved in your community.

Know of any great community events?

Please share them with me by emailing  
[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to  
[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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## County's MIHU Accepting Applications – DEADLINE APPROACHING!

Looking for affordable housing in Howard County? Howard County Housing has begun accepting applications for the January open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. The enrollment period ends **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**. This program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income and at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible families.

For more info on the MIHU Program, call **410-313-6318** and select option 4 or visit their MIHU [website](#).

## "Children On Board" Preschool/Child Care Information Fair!

Mark your calendars! Howard County's Department of Citizen Services Preschool/Child Care Information Fair, "Children On Board" will be held **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm** at **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane** in Clarksville. Admission is free and fairgoers can gather info on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as the opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County's young children will also be on hand to provide information to interested parents. Those attending are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the HC Food Bank. For details, call **410-313-1940** or e-mail [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

For more details, go [online](#) or contact **Lisa Madera**, Event Coordinator at **410-313-5990** or via e-mail at [lmadera@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lmadera@howardcountymd.gov).

## Howard County Math Festival

STEMulating Minds will hold its inaugural HoCo Math Festival to increase student and parent interest in math and careers in math! This festival, hosted on **Wednesday, January 29, 2014 6:30-9:30pm** at **Centennial High School** in Ellicott City, will feature hands-on activities and presentations such as Statistics in Baseball, Using the Wii to Teach Math, and Games, Animation and Math.

For a complete list of exhibitors or for more information, click [here](#).

## FY15 CSP Grant Applications Now Available!

Are you a nonprofit organization interested in applying for a Community Service Partnership (CSP) grant with the County in FY15 Budget? The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is now accepting CSP grant applications from 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations! These funds can help provide support for the delivery of essential human services in the Howard County community. CSP funds may be used for operating expenses to support the ongoing administrative functioning of an agency, project expenses to support the cost of a specific program or service, and/or direct client assistance.

For more information or to obtain a **Request for Grant Application** package, click the following links: [FY15 Application Package](#), [Agency Budget-Expenses](#), [Agency Budget-Revenue](#) or call 410-313-6400. Grant applications are due by **January 31, 2014**. In FY15, two additional grant opportunities have been developed – a one-time grant and an initiative grant: [FY15 One-time funding application](#) or [FY15 Initiative funding application](#).

## Howard County Restaurant Weeks – Last Call!



Howard County is inviting you to LOVE LOCAL! Through **Monday, January 27, 2014**, diners are invited to take part in Howard County's annual Restaurant Weeks and enjoy specially prepared menus prepared by Howard County's top chefs! Prix fixe menus are available from \$10.14-\$40.14 where residents can enjoy their local favorites or sample new menu items. For more details and participating locations, go [online](#).

## HC Watershed Stewards Academy Now Recruiting!

The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy is now recruiting for its second class of Watershed Stewards. With a few seats in the class still available, the application deadline has been extended to **January 28, 2014**. Learn how to reduce storm water runoff flowing from residential rooftops, roads, driveways, and lawns into the streams and rivers and Howard County. Reducing storm water runoff reduces sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, bacteria, oil and grease, trash, pesticides, and metals that pollute the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information, contact **Barbara Schmeckpeper, Ph.D.** at 410-381-5279 or email [howardwsa@gmail.com](mailto:howardwsa@gmail.com).

## Nominate an Outstanding Principal or Teacher TODAY!

Nominate an Outstanding HCPSS Principal or Teacher TODAY! Nominations for the 2013-2014 Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership and Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards are being accepted until **Friday, January 31, 2014**. The application and additional information is available [online](#) or by calling 410-313-6600.

## MTA Hosts Informational Meeting on Changes to Commuter Bus Routes!

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) invites residents to attend an informational meeting on **Wednesday, January 29, 2014 6:30-8:30pm** at **The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way** in Columbia. Officials will discuss proposed changes to Commuter Bus routes 915 (service from US40 & US29 to Columbia, Burtonsville, and Silver Spring to downtown Washington), 929 (service from Columbia, Burtonsville and Silver Spring to downtown Washington) and 995 (service from Clarksville, Ellicott City, and Columbia to downtown Washington). MTA Commuter managers will present details of plans to reconfigure and improve service on these routes with the next service contract effective September 1, 2014.

Information presented will include: new route numbers, simplification of route patterns and additional service to existing stops; and a possible Contractor change. None of the proposed changes will result in a reduction of service or elimination of any routes or stops. For more information, contact **Mr. Glenn Saffran**, MTA's Manager of Commuter Bus Service at 410-454-7255 or email [commuterbus@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:commuterbus@mta.maryland.gov).

## SNAP / 24 Hours!

Come experience the Howard County Public School Media based Art show featuring K-12 student images documenting and showcasing different personal perspectives during a 24-hour period from November 5th, 2013. This showcase captures everyday rituals, familiar connections, spontaneous moments, and local icons that make up their lives on a single day. The gallery show will run through **Friday, January 31, 2014** and is located at the **Columbia Art Center, 6100 Foreland Garth**. It is made possible through an educational partnership with the Columbia Art Center. For more details, call 410-730-0075 or email [art.staff@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:art.staff@columbiaassociation.org).

### Protect Your Pipes!

Our Bureau of Utilities would like to remind residents to take proactive steps to protect your pipes and plumbing fixtures from cold weather damage.

Helpful tips:

- Any exposed pipes should be wrapped or insulated
- Leave the hot and cold water dripping to reduce probability of pipes freezing
- Seal any air leaks that may let any icy blast reach pipes
- Turn off and drain outside spigots
- If house has crawlspace, close all air vents located in the foundation
- If going on extended vacation, keep enough heat on at home to prevent pipes from freezing
- Always report loss of water to **410-313-4900**

## Friends of Education Award –Accepting Nominations!

The Friends of Education Award was established by the Board of Education to recognize individuals, businesses, or organizations making innovative or unique contributions that directly support the school system's mission of excellence in teaching and learning. Any Howard County resident or any group, organization, or business located in or serving Howard County may be nominated for the award.

The nomination deadline is **Monday, February 3, 2014**. Nominees and recipients will be notified by March 17<sup>th</sup> and awards will be presented at the April 10<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting. Nomination forms are available by calling **410-313-7346** or [online](#).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sustainable Growth Forum and Awards Ceremony!

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards celebrate significant achievement by individuals, businesses, organizations and local governments to realize the [12 planning visions](#) adopted by the Maryland General Assembly. The awards promote exemplary work that represents or inspires collaboration, innovation, conservation, community impact and quality of life. The second annual forum hosted by the Sustainable Growth Commission is entitled "Big Box or Bagel Shop? What Baby Boomers and Millennials Want".

The event is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 3pm** at the Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle in Annapolis and will feature guest speaker Mitchell J. Silver, past president of the American Planning Association and chief planning and development officer with over 28 years of public and private sector experience. At the forum, the Sustainable Growth Commission will present the 2014 Sustainable Growth Awards and the Sustainable Growth Challenge student competition winners. For more details, contact **Arabia Davis** at **410-767-4613**, email [Arabia.Davis@maryland.gov](mailto:Arabia.Davis@maryland.gov) or click [here](#).

## Social Media Awareness Night!

Oakland Mills Middle School will be hosting a Social Awareness Media Night for parents on **Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 6pm** in the media center. They will be sharing "what's new in social media" and will be looking at "terms of use" and ways parents can monitor their children's usage and help their children stay safe.

## HCPSS Curriculum Information Session!

Howard County parents, students and community members are invited to attend an information session to learn about the HCPSS Math and English/Language Arts curriculum and its alignment to the Common Core State Standards. Parents can expect to gain a better understanding of what students in Grades K-12 are learning and how they can help at home. The information session will be held on **Thursday, February, 6, 2014 7-9pm** at **Glenelg High School, 14025 Burntwoods Rd** in Glenelg. For more info, call **410-313-6600**.

## Annual Public Service Announcement Contest – Enter Today!

HC DrugFree and HoCo FilmFest invite all Howard County teens to submit videos for the annual Public Service Announcement contest! The HC DrugFree 2014 film category theme is focused on preventing prescription and /or over-the-counter drug misuse and abuse in youth ages 12 to 25. The PSA will be used to locally promote semi-annual national Drug Take Back Days. All entries must be submitted by **Monday, March 3, 2014**. Go to [www.hcdrugfree.org](http://www.hcdrugfree.org) for full guidelines and prize information or contact **Joan Webb Scornaienchi**, Executive Director at **443-325-0040** or [joan@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:joan@hcdrugfree.org).

## Children's Discovery Fair!

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hand-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. Hosted on **Saturday, March 29, 2014 10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia**. This year's theme is Preschool STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). For more information, contact the Office of Children's Services by calling **410-313-1940** or e-mailing [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

## Money Matters Fair 2014!



Kick-off Financial Education month with a fun-filled line-up of activities and exhibitors to learn smart ways to stretch your money! This fair will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia**. The fair includes free tax preparation for income qualified individuals, free credit reports, credit counseling and free financial planning sessions. The event will also feature hands-on activities, information and resources for personal finance, financial aid for college, retirement, etc. For more details, call **410-313-2001**, email [kpruim@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kpruim@howardcountymd.gov) or click [here](#).

## MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

Howard County Housing is now accepting applications for the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications will be available at the Housing's office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and are not eligible for a MHRP-SF loan.

This program also provides HC Housing with the opportunity to assist eligible homeowners in securing low interest loans that cannot exceed 110% of the property's value and with an interest rate of 4.5%. Loan amounts are based upon the owner-occupants ability to repay the loan.

## Columbia's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Share Your Input!

As Columbia begins its preparations to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Columbia and Howard County residents are invited to share their feedback on what they would like to see integrated into the festivities! Take a brief moment and share your comments [online](#).

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual GreenFest!

Back for its 7th year, this free event offers something for all ages and features exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, activities and practical tips for easy ways to “green” your home, workplace and lifestyle. GreenFest will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014 10am-4pm** at Howard Community College, **Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. For more info, call **410-313-4374** or go [online](#).

## “Come Home to Howard County” Housing Fair!

This premier event targets and showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair, hosted on **Saturday, April 12, 2014 10am-2pm** at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Ln** in Columbia, offers attendees the chance to talk one-on-one with real estate professionals, mortgage lenders and housing specialists, as well as County personnel, who will be available to answer questions about the programs and services that make Howard County such a great place to “come home to.”

The Fair also feature its signature educational sessions, narrated bus tours of Howard County rental and buyer communities, and prize give-a-ways. The event is FREE and open to the public. Stay tuned to [www.howardcountyhousing.com](http://www.howardcountyhousing.com) for more information about the 2014 Housing Fair and/or contact Howard County Housing's Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318**, select option 4.

## Community Sports Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks is now seeking nominations for its “Community Sports Hall of Fame” which recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. The deadline to nominate is Tuesday, **April 15, 2014**.

Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or even behind-the scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated. Nomination forms are available [online](#) or by calling **410-313-4711**. In addition to the form, nominators must provide the Committee with an essay demonstrating the nominees community sports background.

## Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest January 2014 edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

## Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2013-2014!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed online at

[www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm)

Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 5 & 12
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 29
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	February 20
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 30; February 6
West Friendship Park (Wounded Soldiers Hunt)	
Bow & Shotgun	February 26

## What to Know if You See Snow?

Now that winter has arrived, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of our Department of Public Works:

### Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

### Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

### Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

### Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**.

### Clearing Your Sidewalks

"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging – Maryland Access Point at 410-313-5980 to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call **410-313-5980**.

### Did It Snow On...

*"Trash" Day?* If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual – before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

*"Recycling" Day?* If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call **410-313-SORT (7678)**.

### Please be patient...

During inclement weather, trash and recycling trucks must travel slowly and safely. Remember, the contractors have until 7pm to pick up your trash and recyclables. Questions about snow removal? Email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email [CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.



## CA Pathway App Available!

It is now even easier than ever for Columbia residents to enjoy the community's signature 93.5-mile pathway system. Columbia Association (CA) is introducing two new tools for pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists: a smartphone app for iPhone and Android users; and pathway signage, the first of which has been installed between Lake Kittamaquundi and Wilde Lake.

The smartphone app is free and can be downloaded at <http://www.columbiaassociation.org/content/getinformed/CA/CApath.cfm> or by searching your app store for "CA Pathways." Its map shows pathways, sidewalks, tunnels, playgrounds and tot lots, parks, playing fields, wooded areas, CA facilities, buildings and even golf course fairways. Speak-up, visit [InspireColumbia.com](http://InspireColumbia.com) and share your views on a number of topics of interest to Columbia residents.

## Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at [www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm), provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at **410-313-7392** to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." This e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at [www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm), provides consumers with tips on avoiding scams and dispels misconceptions people may have about obtaining coverage from the Maryland health exchanges. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at **410-313-6420**.

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

**Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

**Columbia Teen Center** [http://www.columbiaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/teens/teen\\_center.cfm](http://www.columbiaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/teens/teen_center.cfm) or **410-992-3726**

**Howard County Library** [www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22](http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22)

**Voices For Change** <http://www.facebook.com/HCV4C#!/HCV4C/info> or email [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

## Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call **410-730-6030**.

## "Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is [online](#).

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

## Health Care Options For You or Your Family!



The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make-up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737.

## Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

## Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email [ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at [www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd\\_smartprogram.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm)
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

## "Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.



## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

## Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).



## Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, **5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E** in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call **410-992-1923 x 14**.

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

## View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A list of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

## I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball  
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*"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

**~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**